

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5912
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3175

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)
KHARTOUM FOR DALLEY-HOLLOWAY
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CT, US, EAID
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE: CAMEROON

REF: (A) STATE 160354, (B) YAOUNDE 3163, (C) YAOUNDE 3114,
(D) YAOUNDE 3113

1. IN PREPARATION FOR DALLEY-HOLLOWAY VISVA N ON JUNE 20
DCM SAW PHILEMON M. YANG, VICE MINISTER OF TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRA-
TION, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISING LOCAL AND REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTRY. DURING MEETING DCMRESCHEDULED
APPOINTMENT FOR DALLEY AND HOLLOWAY WITH YANG FOR 11 AM ON
JUNE 24 WHICH HAD BEEN CANCELLED DUE CONFLICT MINISTRY FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MEETING (REF TEL C) ERCM ALSO GAVE YANG FULL AND FRANK
BRIEFING ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL U.S. CHAPTERS AND THEIR
INQUIRIES WITH RESPECT TO CAMEROON. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUG-
RESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PRE-
SIDENCY OFFICIALS, HE WAS INFORMED THAT WE HAVE RESPONDED
TO ALL INQUIRIES, BY REFERRING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL U.S.
CHAPTERS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR
TO THE U.S. DCM ALSO SAID THAT WE HAD RECEBED FOLLOW-UP
LETTERS ON FELIX NGANDO FROM ALLEN LEVINE OF THE GREAT NECK
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CHAPTER AND FRANCOIS NAKAM FROM PHILIP W. GARRET OF
PORTLAND, OREGON, INDICATING THAT THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED HELPFUL
ANSWERS TO THEIR CORRESPONDENCE. YANG WAS ALSO GIVEN THE
NAMES OF ANDRE EDENGA, JACKY BOLLO, ALAIN ROGER MOUTONGO
AND THERESE GOETHE AS THE OTHER CAMEROONIANS ABOUT WHOM WE HAVE
RECEIVED INQUIRIES. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY WAS
SEARCHING FOR A PROPER ROLE TO PLAY IN THESE INQUIRIES, 'AS WE

HAVE NO STANDING WITH RESPECT TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF ITS OWN CITIZENS, HOWEVER, THERE IS A U.S. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT TO PREPARE REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL COUNTRIES WHICH ARE AID RECIPIENTS. FURTHERMORE, YANG WAS TOLD TMFT EMBASSY HAD JUST LEARNED THAT CAMEROON WAS ONE OF 27 COUNTRIES NOTED IN A HOUSE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AS HAVING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. KTKM SAID THAT EMBASSY FELT THAT CAMEROON ON THE WHOLE HAD A VERY GOOD RECORD WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN COMPARED TO MOST OF ITS NEIGHBORS, BUT THAT THIS RECORD WAS BEING BLEMISHED BECAUSE THE GURC WAS NOT ANSWERING ITS MAIL. DCM STRESSED THAT ANY HELP WHICH NICE MINISTER COULD OQNER WOULD BE WELCOMED. YANG SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND BE PREPARED FOR THE JUNE 24 MEETING WITH DALLEY AND HOLLOWAY.

2. YANG WAS INVITED TO ATTEND A DINNER-DISCUSSION AT DCM'S RESIDENCE AT WHICH DALLEY-HALLOWAY WERE MAIN SPEAKERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UN (REFTEL B) ON EVENING OF JUNE 23. HE DID NOT ATTEND; HOWEVER, HE DROVE PAST THE DCM'S RESIDENCE AS THE LAST DISCUSSANTS WERE LEAVING AND EXPRESSED HIS APOLOGIES FOR HAVING HAD OTHER OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENTS AND BEING UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE. AT THAT TIME HE RECONFIRMED THE 11 AM MEETING, BUT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 24, HE TELEPHONED TO CANCEL. ON JUNE 26 DCM SPOKE TO YANG TO REESTABLISH AN APPOINTMENT AND INFORMED YANG THAT THERE WAS A SPECIFIC INQUIRY (REFTEL A). YANG INDICATED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE DELICACY
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AND URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, ON JUNE 24 AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT WITH APUL ENGO, TECHNICAL ADVISOR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE I OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. ENGO, NORMALLY WILLING TO FRANKLY DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT, WAS SOMEWHAT HESITANT AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE TAKEN UP WITH SENGAT KUO, MINISTER IN CHARGE OF MISSIONS IN THE PREDISENCY. HOWEVER, HE CALLED BACK JUNE 26 AND SAID THE MATTER HAS BEEN TROUBLING HIM AND HE WISHED TO SEE ME. I SAW HIM LATER THAT EVENING AND WE DISCUSSED REFTTEL A. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH "HIGHER AUTHORITY" (PRESUMABLY FOREIGN MINISTER, SECRETARY GENERWA OR SOMEONE IN PRESIDENCY) AND HE WISHED TO ASSURE ME OF GURC'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. I GAVE HIM THE NAMES LISTED PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE AND HIS WIFE KNEW PERSONALLY JACKY BOLLO AND ALAIN ROGER MOUTONGO. SHE SAID THEY HAD BOTH BEEN RELEASED. ON THE OTHER NAMES, HE OBSERVED THAT FELIX NGANDO AND FRANCOIS NAKAM ARE VERY COMMON NAMES IN CAMEROON. HOWEVER, WE HOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO CHECK OUT THIS LIST AND GET BACK TO ME ASAP.

4. THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS MATTER. OUR PERSONAL

PREFERENCE IS TO TRY TO CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUES WITH PAUL ENGO(A LAWYER) AND VICE MINISTER YANG (A MAGISTRATE). AS THEY APPEAR TO APPRECIATE THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS OBVIOUS THAT THEY HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH HIGHER-UPS AND WILL PROBABLY COOPERATE ONLY TO THE DEGREE THAT THEY ARE PERMITTED OR TOLD TO SO DO. IN THE EVENT THAT FURTHER INFO DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO PURSUE MATTER WITH EITHER SET AT LUO OR BOUBA BELLO, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY. FINALLY IF ALL OTHER MEANS FAIL, THE EMBASSY WILL PREPARE A FOLLOW-ON NOTE TO THOSE WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE REQUIRMENT FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AND THE REPORT ITSELF IN ORDER REINFORCE THESE INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH A FORMAL REQUEST.

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5. WHILE WE WILL TRY MAINTAIN LOW-KEY INFORMAL APPROACH, IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT AS CONGRESS REQUESTS MORE INFO ON SUBJECTS THAT GURC BELIEVES ARE ESSENTIALLY DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, THEN THE EMBASSY IS PUT IN THE POSITION OF MORE AND MORE APPEARING TO BE INVESTIGATIVE ARM OF CONGRESS AND/OR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. WE TRUST DEPT IS AWARE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SUBTLE CHANGE IN ROLES. WE ALSO HOPE DEPT. WILL SUPPORT US BY MAKING PARALLEL APPROACHES TO AMBASSADOR BINDZI AND PERHAPS AMB OYONO IN NEW YORK.

6. THE DEPARTMENT WILL OF COURSE BE PROMPTLY INFORMED WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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